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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520



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ACTION MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

DECL: OADR

S/S

NO 11 1631

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: G - Mr. Wirth

FROM: AF - George E. Moose

SUBJECT: Update on Extension of Operation Turquoise;
Letter to Rwandan Prime Minister Twagiramungu

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to sign the attached letter to Rwandan Prime Minister Twagiramungu.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

We are continuing to push the Rwandan government to agree to an extension of the French deployment in Rwanda beyond August 22, to assure a smooth transition to UNAMIR protection and lessen the likelihood of a large refugee outflow from the safe zone. Our initial contacts with the government showed flexibility on this issue, and Vice President Kagame indicated to UN SRSG Khan that a short extension might be acceptable. However, President Bizimungu yesterday informed Khan that the government would not allow the French to extend their deployment. UN headquarters has instructed Khan to keep pressing the issue.

We instructed our Charge to make another demarche to Bizimungu and Vice President Kagame. In a demarche today, Bizimungu maintained his position and complained that the French are tolerating, if not aiding and abetting, the Hutu extremists who are working to consolidate their position for a possible counteroffensive. Our Charge will talk again to Kagame and Prime Minister Twagiramungu tomorrow, and I will try to follow up with a personal call to Kagame. (It may not be possible to call Kagame from Washington.) We intend to be very firm with the government, making clear that if we have to spend money on additional refugee relief because of their intransigence, they should not expect any assistance for reconstruction within Rwanda.

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The French PermRep today reaffirmed that the French are willing to stay on if the Rwandan government indicates that they want them to stay. On August 15, Prime Minister Balladur informed Ambassador Harriman that the French will not change their decision to withdraw their troops. Nonetheless, the Ambassador said she believed there may still be some French flexibility on the modalities and precise timing of the withdrawal, and that not every French soldier needs to be out by August 22; she reported the overall thrust of French policy is to aim for withdrawal by the end of August. The Ambassador said she believed that U.S. pressure on French to stay on over the medium term would be ineffective and possibly counterproductive.

While the results so far have been mixed, both the French and the Rwandan government have shown enough flexibility to justify pursuing this issue. Given the potential for another humanitarian disaster if some extension is not forthcoming, we believe we need to continue pushing the issue. We suggest that you send a letter to the Rwandan government to ratchet up the pressure and underscore the points we have been making through our Embassy in Kigali.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached letter to Rwandan Prime Minister Twagiramungu.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

Attachment

Tab 1 - Proposed letter.

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Drafted:AF/C:KAiston *KA*
SECC 4744, 8/17/94

Cleared:AF/C:RFendrick
IO/PHO:AKanne
PM/ISP:RWharton
PRM/AAA:MMcKelvey
EUR/WE:JLewis
P:ESwicker *AK*

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